

NEWS RELEASE

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**TWO MEN INDICTED FOR VIOLATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS
OF AN INMATE AT GREENVILLE FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTION AND LYING TO COVER UP THE CRIME**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **DANIEL GORDON** and **ERIC NEWSOME**, correctional officers at the Greenville Federal Correctional Institution, were indicted by a federal grand jury for violating the civil rights of an inmate and then lying to cover up the crime. The grand jury charged both men with assault on a federal inmate, conspiracy to violate the inmate's civil rights, and with filing false reports after the incident. Additionally, the grand jury charged Newsome with lying to a special agent of the United States Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General. Each defendant made his first appearance in District Court and was arraigned on the charges on July 24.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum term of ten years in prison on each of the civil rights counts, ten years on the conspiracy count, and 20 years on each count of filing a false report. Newsome potentially faces an additional five years in prison for lying to the special agent of the Office of the Inspector General. Each count also carries a maximum \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the United States has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Department of Justice, working through the United States Attorney's Office and the Civil Rights Division, is committed to the vigorous enforcement of every federal criminal civil rights statute, such as those laws that prohibit the willful use of excessive force or other acts of misconduct by law enforcement officials. The Department has compiled a significant record on criminal civil rights prosecutions in the last five years. Since FY 2001, the number of official misconduct prosecutions has increased by 16 percent in comparison to the previous five years. Additionally, the Civil Rights Division has charged 11 percent more defendants in color of law cases during the same time frame and the conviction rate of defendants has risen by 30 percent.

The indictment resulted from an investigation the Chicago Division Office of the Inspector General. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Rich H. Lloyd and Trial Attorney Michael Khoury from the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.